

April 5, 2006

Martin J. Gruenberg, Acting Chairman
FDIC Board of Directors

Dear Mr. Gruenberg:

I write to you to express my opposition to Wal-Mart's formation of a bank. When I first heard about the possibility, I was stunned. I've lived in areas where Wal-Marts have existed for years. That was many years ago and the Wal-Mart stores existed in harmony with the area. That changed. I watched it change. The stores became larger and the working conditions deteriorated.

Then I moved to an area which had no Wal-Marts. It was like moving back in time. Then Wal-Mart set its sight here. I watched as the stores that came in were even larger than those in the areas I had previously lived. I watched small businesses and shops close as they were no longer able to make a profit because they were not able to compete for the price breaks that Wal-Mart receives. I watched traffic build around the new Wal-Marts to the point that I now avoid those areas because it takes so long to get through them, the drivers get frustrated, and dodging angry drivers gets old. Wal-Mart stores are not good neighbors.

Now Wal-Mart wants to start its own bank. If their retail business practices are any sign, it would be a disaster for consumers, the banking industry, and neighborhoods. To concentrate retail might is bad enough; to couple that with a related bank is asking for trouble.

I ask that Wal-Mart be denied this attempt at establishing a bank.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Carol Cates
Lake Stevens, W